

## One Hot Key for August

Hey folks! Is it warm out there or what!?! It's sure been scorching in the kitchen but **Wires'N Wood** has been busy cooking up a new lesson for you jammers. Hot off the press from our guitar chording 101 series. This month we will focus on the key of "D". I hope that you have been practicing last month's lesson, (especially that chord of D major because that's going to come in handy this month).

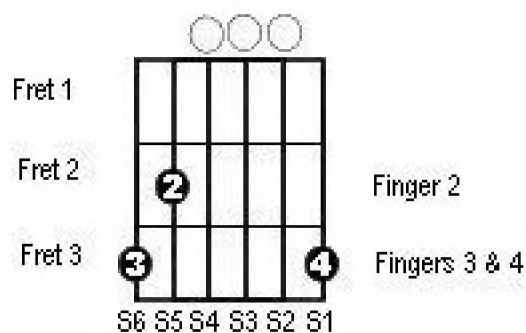
Just as the key of "G" was a natural progression from the Key of "C", "D" is the next natural step from "G". Assuming you have learned "G" fairly well then there is only one chord that you have to learn this month. "It's a good thing", as Martha Stewart would say, because this is the toughest chord to finger up to this point in our series.

Don't get too discouraged, however. There is some good news. In a cramped kind of way the A-major chord is fingered al...most exactly like the D-major chord. Your fingers take the same shape on the fret board just a little closer together.

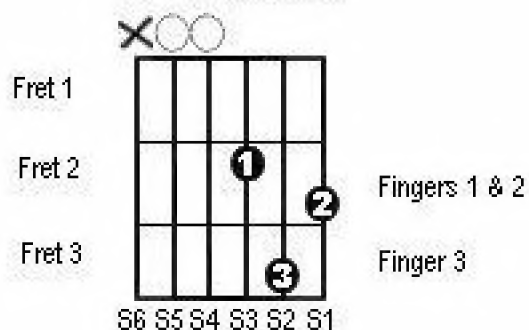
The trick to mastering A-major is getting used to cramping three fingers into one fret all right next to each other. You'd think this would be easier then having to spread your fingers out over a wide space of the fret board but it isn't. If you find this difficult to master, well you're not alone, but the fact that your hand is already getting used to the shape of D-major will help I assure you so don't give up. Many people I play with first learned and still prefer to play in the key of "D".

Now here are the chord charts and illustrated fingerings to **G-major**, **D-major** & **A-major**, which are the chords that combine to make up the **key of D**.

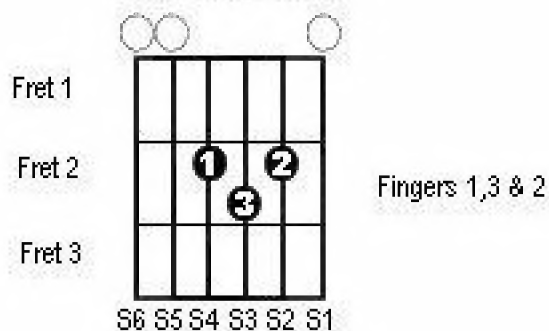
## G-major



## D-major



## A-major



- = Fretted Note
- × = Muted (Do not Sound)
- = Open String ( Sound )





I would like to emphasize that these lessons may come out on a monthly timetable but that doesn't mean that you will be able or in anyway should expect to master any one of them within 30 days. Each person learns at a different rate. You can slow your progress by not practicing but you may find that even with your best efforts a month is too short a period to jump from one key to the next. Please take the time to become sufficiently comfortable with each key before moving on to the next lesson. Try to resist the urge to skip more challenging keys and chords as each key really does build on it's predecessor and most if not all of these chords will come into play in your favorite keys as accidental chords.

Well that's all I can offer for this month I think you'll find it'll keep you busy. I can't make you learn these things any faster than is your natural pace, but I can tell you with certainty that the more you practice the faster you will learn and therefore the opposite is true as well.

Good luck! Have fun and I'll see you at the next JAM!

If you have any questions, corrections or suggestions for Wires'N Wood be sure to email me at [eh Heath@mts.net](mailto:eh Heath@mts.net) or just grab-a-hold of me at the next Westman Jam.

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Amateur Editorialist